

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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TAGS:OEXC, MX

SUBJECT:MEETING WITH CONACYT OFFICERS - U.S. STUDENT  
PROGRAM

REF: MEXICO 7067

1. ON AUGUST 11 DEPT. HAD CORDIAL AND PRODUCTIVE FIVE-  
HOUR MEETING WITH JORGE RUIZ OF CONACYT AND SCI ATT DE  
ALBA. ON U.S. SIDE ARA/MEX, CU/ARA, AID/SER/IT AND IIE WERE  
REPRESENTED. DISCUSSION COVERED BOTH BASIC OBJECTIVES  
AND OPERATIONAL DETAILS OF BOTH SIDES OF EXCHANGE.

2. DE ALBA STATED MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS WOULD CONTINUE TO  
BE RECENT GRADUATES OF PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS SEEKING ON-THE-  
JOB OR IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS IN FIELDS WHERE NO  
FORMAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS EXIST. WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES  
REQUIRE, AND IIE SO RECOMMENDS, PROGRAM COULD INCLUDE A  
COMPONENT OF UNIVERSITY COURSE WORK. REGULAR ACADEMIC  
FELLOWSHIPS HANDLED UNDER SEPARATE CONACYT PROGRAM WHICH NOW  
HAS 700 STUDENTS IN U.S. UNIVERSITIES. PLACEMENT OR  
TRAINING STATUS OF ALL MEXICAN CANDIDATES REVIEWED IN  
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DETAIL. CONACYT UNDERTOOK TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES OVER ENTIRE

YEAR RATHER THAN IN ANNUAL LISTS, IN ORDER TO SPREAD WORK-LOAD OF PLACEMENT. IIE UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE CONACYT WITH

REPORTS EACH FOUR MONTHS STARTING NOV. 1 ON STATUS OF EACH MEXICAN CANDIDATE. IT WAS AGREED THAT IIE WOULD ESTABLISH A PERIOD OF 60 DAYS FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A SPECIFIC TRAINING REQUEST AS A GOAL FOR NOTIFICATION TO CONACYT WHEN THE PARTICULAR TRAINING BEING SOUGHT WAS NOT AVAILABLE. FOR LACK OF EXPERIENCE UNDER THE CURRENT SYSTEM, IIE WAS UNABLE TO MAKE PREDICTIONS ABOUT HOW RAPIDLY PLACEMENTS OF NEW CANDIDATES COULD BE MADE, BUT ALL CONCERNED EXPECTED A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT.

3. DISCUSSION DID NOT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH CONACYT'S UNSATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE IN PLACING U.S. STUDENTS. HOWEVER IT DID SURFACE ONE ISSUE BOTHERING CONACYT. THEY DO NOT WANT TO ACCEPT STUDENTS WHO ARE DEGREE CANDIDATES, SINCE THIS IMPLIES A COMMITMENT TO THEM BEYOND ONE YEAR, WHICH IS THE LIMIT FOR PROGRAMS HANDLED BY THE TECHNICIANS EXCHANGE DIVISION OF CONACYT. THOUGH THEY DISPLAYED SOME DISCOMFORT ABOUT HANDLING STRICTLY ACADEMIC CANDIDATES UNDER A NORMALLY TECHNICAL PROGRAM, THEY CONFIRMED THEIR PREVIOUS AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT ACADEMIC CANDIDATES SELECTED UNDER EXISTING FULBRIGHT COMPETITIVE SCREENING PROCESS, PROVIDING THAT IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY GRANTEE THAT GRANT LIMITED TO ONE YEAR. CU/ARA CONFIRMED THAT GRANTS WILL BE LIMITED TO ONE YEAR.

4. TIMING REQUIREMENTS OF PLACEMENT OF U.S. STUDENTS DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. CONACYT UNDERTOOK 60 DAY PLACEMENT PERIOD AS GOAL FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REGULAR IIE APPLICATION FORMS FILLED OUT IN SPANISH. (SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WILL NOT REQUIRE TRANSLATION). IIE AND CU/ARA WILL MAKE UTMOST EFFORT TO HAVE NEXT YEAR'S APPLICATIONS IN SPANISH SENT TO EMBASSY MEXICO IN FEBRUARY 1976, AIMING FOR REPLY ON PLACEMENTS IN APRIL.

5. CONACYT REPORT ON STATUS U.S. CANDIDATES WAS NOT ENTIRELY CONVERGENT WITH INFO IN REFTEL. RUIZ REPORTED PLACEMENTS FOR DURAN, LUGO, MILLER, UNGER AND SCHERR WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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BE FORMALLY CONFIRMED IN WRITING TO EMBASSY DURING WEEK OF AUG. 10. DUKE AND WIEMERS HAVE REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWN TO ACCEPT FELLOWSHIP AWARDS FROM DHEW. CONACYT STATED MUMMERT AND AGUAYO COULD BE PLACED PROVIDED THEY UNDERSTOOD GRANT FOR ONE YEAR ONLY, NOT FOR DEGREE PROGRAM. DEPT IS CORRESPONDING WITH THEM AND WILL ADVISE EMBASSY IF CANDIDATES ACCEPT THIS CONDITION. DEPT. AND CONACYT HAVE CONFLICTING INFORMATION ON MACIEL'S AVAILABILITY AND

INTEREST IN GRANT. DEPT. SEEKING CLARIFICATION FROM HIM  
AND WILL ADVISE EMBASSY. RUBIN AND SABAH ARE STILL IN  
PENDING CATEGORY WITH NO INFO ON PLACEMENT.

6. MEETING WAS USEFUL AND POSITIVE, AND OFFERS GROUNDS FOR  
HOPE THIS EXCHANGE CAN BE OPERATED ON ACCEPTABLE BASIS IN  
FUTURE. IT IS DEPT'S STRONGLY FELT VIEW THAT USG HAS FULLY  
COMPLIED WITH ALL COMMITMENTS ON TECHNICIANS EXCHANGE  
PROGRAM MADE TO MEXICAN DELEGATION AT 1974 MEETING UNDER  
SCIENCE BILATERAL. NOW THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE AND  
PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT SERVICES HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED FOR,  
THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPECT PROGRAM WILL RUN MORE  
SMOOTHLY. SISCO

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